

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12 (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A method in a computer system for providing a customer billing statement for a plurality of different communications services, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) using a computer system to perform an act of formatting a customer billing statement to create a formatted billing statement form, the ~~step-act~~ act of formatting comprising the steps of:

- (i) creating a plurality of statement presentation codes, each statement presentation code comprising one or more attributes for dictating the presentation of transaction information on a customer billing statement,
- (ii) creating a plurality of user-selected sections, each section having at least one of said statement presentation codes being selected by a user,
- (iii) creating a plurality of segments, each segment having at least one of said sections,
- (iv) assigning at least one statement presentation code from said plurality of statement presentation codes to at least one section from said plurality of sections, and
- (v) assigning at least one section from said plurality of sections to each one of said plurality of segments; ~~and~~

(b) entering billing information relating to a plurality of communications services provided to a customer into said formatted billing statement form in accordance with said segments, said sections, and said statement presentation codes to create a completed billing statement; ~~and~~

(c) providing said completed billing statement to said customer; and

(d) allowing a provider of said plurality of communications services to determine a format for customer billing statements relating to said plurality of communications services provided by said communications service provider, wherein the formatting is conducted in accordance with said format.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said attributes comprise:

- (1) a section code,
- (2) a summary line,
- (3) a sorting indication, and
- (4) a statement presentation section.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of creating a plurality of segments comprises the steps of:

- (1) creating a summary segment,
- (2) creating an itemization segment,
- (3) creating a usage detail segment, and
- (4) creating a tax segment.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of creating a plurality of sections comprises the steps of:

- (1) creating a summary line section for said summary segment,
- (2) creating a plurality of occurrence line sections for said itemization and usage detail segments, and
- (3) creating a tax line segment for said tax segment.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of assigning occurrences to said occurrence line sections in said itemization and said usage details segments.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of assigning occurrences comprises assigning at least one equipment outlet to at least one of said occurrence line sections.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising grouping and presenting information relating to transactions relating to at least two communications services of said plurality of services in one or more segments on the statement.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of grouping and presenting is completed in accordance with said statement presentation codes.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the plurality of communications services includes at least two of cable, telephony, video, or data services.

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

(d) grouping together information relating to a plurality of communications services into at least one of said segments or at least one of said sections, and

(e) assigning a statement attribute code to each communications service to represent how said information is to be grouped together.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

(d) allowing said customer to determine a method of payment for charges relating to each communications service; and

(e) assigning a method of payment code to each communications service to represent the method of payment determined by said customer.

25. (previously presented) A system operable to carry out the steps comprising the method of claim 13.

26. (previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising instructions to perform the method of claim 13.

27. (currently amended) A method in a computer system for providing a customer billing statement for a plurality of different communications services, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) using a computer system to perform an act of formatting a customer billing statement to create a formatted billing statement form, the step of formatting comprising the steps of:

- (i) creating a plurality of statement presentation codes, each statement presentation code comprising one or more attributes for dictating the presentation of transaction information on a customer billing statement,
- (ii) creating a plurality of user-selected sections, each section having at least one of said statement presentation codes being selected by a user,
- (iii) creating a plurality of segments, each segment having at least one of said sections,
- (iv) assigning at least one statement presentation code from said plurality of statement presentation codes to at least one section from said plurality of sections, and
- (v) assigning at least one section from said plurality of sections to each one of said plurality of segments;

(b) receiving input representing a preference of a customer for separate billing statements, wherein each of said separate billing statements relates to one or more different communications services provided to said customer,

(c) entering billing information relating to a plurality of services provided to said customer into said formatted billing statement form in accordance with said segments, said sections, said statement presentation codes, and said input to create one or more completed billing statements; ~~and~~

- (d) providing said one or more completed billing statements to said customer; and
- (e) allowing a provider of said plurality of communications services to determine a format for customer billing statements relating to said plurality of communications services provided by said communications service provider, wherein the formatting is conducted in accordance with said format..

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of assigning a statement code to each of said communications services to correspond to said input.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said attributes comprise:

- (1) a section code,
- (2) a summary line,
- (3) a sorting indication, and
- (4) a statement presentation section.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of creating a plurality of segments comprises the steps of:

- (1) creating a summary segment,
- (2) creating an itemization segment,
- (3) creating a usage detail segment, and
- (4) creating a tax segment.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of creating a plurality of sections comprises the steps of:

- (1) creating a summary line section for said summary segment,
- (2) creating a plurality of occurrence line sections for said itemization and usage detail segments, and
- (3) creating a tax line segment for said tax segment.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of assigning occurrences to said occurrence line sections in said itemization and said usage details segments.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of assigning occurrences comprises assigning at least one equipment outlet to at least one of said occurrence line sections.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the plurality of communications services includes at least two of cable, telephony, video, or data services.

35. (cancelled).

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

(d) grouping together information relating to a plurality of communications services into at least one of said segments or at least one of said sections, and

(e) assigning a statement attribute code to each communications service to represent how said information is to be grouped together.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

(d) allowing said customer to determine a method of payment for charges relating to each communications service; and

(e) assigning a method of payment code to each communications service to represent the method of payment determined by said customer.

38. (previously presented) A system operable to carry out the steps comprising the method of claim 27.

39. (previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising instructions to perform the method of claim 27.

40. (currently amended) A method for providing a customer billing statement for a plurality of different communications services, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) using a computer system to perform an act of formatting a customer billing statement to create a formatted billing statement form, the step of formatting comprising the steps of:

- (i) creating a plurality of statement presentation codes, each statement presentation code comprising one or more attributes for dictating the presentation of transaction information on a customer billing statement,
- (ii) creating a plurality of user-selected sections, each section having at least one of said statement presentation codes being selected by a user,
- (iii) creating a plurality of segments, each segment having at least one of said sections,
- (iv) assigning at least one statement presentation code from said plurality of statement presentation codes to at least one section from said plurality of sections,
- (v) assigning at least one section from said plurality of sections to each one of said plurality of segments; and

(b) entering billing information relating to a plurality of communications services provided to a customer into said formatted billing statement form in accordance with said segments, said sections, and said statement presentation codes to create one or more statement export files;~~and~~

(c) providing said one or more statement export files to a print vendor for printing one or more completed billing statements; and

(d) allowing a provider of said plurality of communications services to determine a format for customer billing statements relating to said plurality of communications services provided by said communications service provider, wherein the formatting is conducted in accordance with said format.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said attributes comprise:

- (1) a section code,
- (2) a summary line,
- (3) a sorting indication, and
- (4) a statement presentation section.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of creating a plurality of segments comprises the steps of:

- (1) creating a summary segment,
- (2) creating an itemization segment,
- (3) creating a usage detail segment, and
- (4) creating a tax segment.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of creating a plurality of sections comprises the steps of:

- (1) creating a summary line section for said summary segment,
- (2) creating a plurality of occurrence line sections for said itemization and usage detail segments, and
- (3) creating a tax line segment for said tax segment.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising the step of assigning occurrences to said occurrence line sections in said itemization and said usage details segments.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the step of assigning occurrences comprises assigning at least one equipment outlet to at least one of said occurrence line sections.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the step of grouping and presenting is completed in accordance with said statement presentation codes.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the plurality of communications services includes at least two of cable, telephony, video, or data services.

48. (cancelled)

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

(d) grouping together information relating to a plurality of communications services into at least one of said segments or at least one of said sections, and

(e) assigning a statement attribute code to each communications service to represent how said information is to be grouped together.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

(d) allowing said customer to determine a method of payment for charges relating to each communications service; and

(e) assigning a method of payment code to each communications service to represent the method of payment determined by said customer.

51. (previously presented) A system operable to carry out the steps comprising the method of claim 40.

52. (previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising instructions to perform the method of claim 40.